

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 23-0714
Client's Docket No. 13631

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **MILTON SHERRILL**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
COLLAPSIBLE CHAIR ASSEMBLY of which the following is a
specification:

COLLAPSIBLE CHAIR ASSEMBLY

5 CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/443,390, filed January 29, 2003.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to chairs and more particularly
15 pertains to a new collapsible chair assembly for providing a
lightweight easily transported chair for use on various types of
terrain.

Description of the Prior Art

20 The use of collapsible chairs is known in the prior art. U.S.
Patent No. 6,095,607 issued to Wenzel on August 1, 2000, describes
a universal chair having four separately adjustable length legs.
Another type of collapsible chair is U.S. Patent No. 5,364,163
25 issued to Hardison on November 15, 1994, disclosing spiked leg
members and telescoping back legs for stably positioning the chair
on a sloped surface. U.S. Patent No 5,494,333 issued to Wilson
on February 27, 1996, discloses individually adjustable legs with
leveling feet.

30 While these devices fulfill their respective, particular
objectives and requirements, the need remains for a collapsible

chair that collapses completely into a compact unit and provides for storage of chair accessories.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention generally comprises a base portion, a back portion, and a plurality of telescopic legs that are pivoted on the base portion. Foot members are provided and may be frictionally engaged to the underside surface of the base portion or
10 on the bottom of the legs when desired to facilitate support on a surface such as sand.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed
15 description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

20 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is
30 given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new collapsible chair assembly according to the present invention.

5 Figure 2 is an enlarged view of the foot members of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a bottom view of the present invention.

10 Figure 4 is a side view of the present invention in an expanded position.

Figure 5 is a side view of the present invention with the legs in a retracted position with the back partially collapsed.

15 Figure 6 is a side view of the present invention with the legs in a retracted partially collapsed position and the back in a collapsed position.

20 Figure 7 is a side view of the present invention in a fully retracted and collapsed position.

Figure 8 is a partial cross-section of a leg of the present invention.

25 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 8 thereof, a new collapsible chair assembly embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention will
30 be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 8, the collapsible chair assembly generally comprises a base portion 12 that includes

an upper surface 14 designed for supporting a user. A plurality of legs 16 are pivotally coupled to the base portion 12 such that each leg 16 pivots between a collapsed position and a use position. A back portion 18 is formed by a pair of posts 20 extending from planar base members 22 pivotally coupled to the base portion 12 and a flexible sheet member 24 extending between the posts 20.

The base portion 12 has a generally planar middle portion 26 and a perimeter wall 28 extending down from edges 30 of the middle portion 26. A thickness of each leg 16 is less than a depth of the perimeter wall 28. The base portion 12 also includes an underside surface 32. Each the leg 16 extends in a parallel position relative to the underside surface 32 of the base portion 12 when the leg 16 is in the collapsed position.

Each leg 16 is telescopic. A locking means 36 is provided on each leg 16 for holding each leg 16 at a desired length. A common locking means may be used but it is preferred that each leg 16 is adjustable individually to permit positioning of each leg 16 at a unique length if so desired to facilitate level positioning of the upper surface 14 of the base portion 12 on an uneven supporting surface. The locking means 36 preferably comprises a spring loaded locking member 38 that is biased into engagement with an outer telescoping portion 40 of each leg 16. Manipulation of the locking member releases the outer telescoping portion of the leg to permit extension or retraction of the leg.

The plurality of legs 16 includes a pair of back legs 42. Each of the back legs 42 is pivoted to extend from a respective corner 44 of the base portion 12 towards a center 46 of the base portion 12

when in the collapsed position. The plurality of legs 16 also includes a pair of front legs 48. Each of the front legs 48 is pivoted to extend from a respective corner 50 of the base portion 12 along an adjacent side 52 of the perimeter wall 28 towards an opposite corner from which an adjacently positioned one of the back legs 42 extends. Alternately, the front and back legs may be reversed in position.

The back portion 18 pivots between being parallel to the upper surface 14 of the base portion 12 and a use position. The posts 20 form an obtuse angle with respect to the upper surface 14 of the base portion 12 when in the use position.

The invention also provides a plurality of foot members 54. Each foot member 54 includes an inner perimeter wall 56 sized to frictionally engage a bottom 58 of each leg 16. Each foot member 54 has an area greater than a cross-sectional area of the bottom 58 of each of the legs 16 such that use of each of the foot members 54 enhances stable positioning of the leg members 16 on a supporting ground surface, particularly when the ground surface is covered with or formed by loose materials such as sand, pebbles, and the like. Raised portions 60 are positioned on the underside surface 32 of the base portion 12 to frictionally engage the foot members 54 to permit storage of the foot members 54 when not in use.

25

Preferably, the upper surface 14 of the base portion 12 is cushioned and all materials used are preferably non-absorbent or waterproof materials to prevent absorption of fluids resulting in increased weight, mold development, and other undesirable conditions.

30

A carrying case 66 is provided. The carrying case 66 is shaped for receiving the base portion 12, the legs 16, and the back portion 18 when the legs 16 and back portion 18 are in the collapsed position.

In use, the legs are pivoted into a use position and extended to desired lengths. If desired, the foot members are attached to the bottoms of the legs. The back is pivoted into a use position. The chair is then used in conventional fashion.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.